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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/769,961 | 02/02/2004 | Hans-Dietrich Polaschegg | POLA-01 | 9120 |

7590 10/20/2009
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| EXAMINER |
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ROGERS, JAMES WILLIAM

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1618

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| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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10/20/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/769,961 | Applicant(s) POLASCHEGG, HANS-DIETRICH | |
| | Examiner JAMES W. ROGERS | Art Unit 1618 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 9-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9,10,16-18 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,11-15 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants amendments to the claims filed 07/24/2009 have been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1,3-4,11-12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Paradies (US 4,870,174), for the reasons set forth in the previous office actions filed 01/21/2009.
2. Claims 1,3-4,11-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Short et al. (US 5,578,119), for the reasons set forth in the previous office actions filed 01/21/2009.
3. Claims 1,3-4,7 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eini et al. (US 2004/0253275 A1), for the reasons set forth in the previous office actions filed 01/21/2009.

4. Claims 1,3-4,6,13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (US 2003/0157178 A1), for the reasons set forth in the previous office actions filed 01/21/2009.
5. Claims 1,3-5,11,13-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Luissi et al. (US 4,587,284), for the reasons set forth in the previous office actions filed 09/12/2007 and 05/14/2008.
6. Claims 1,3-4,6,13-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marchant et al. (US 6,297,337 B1), for the reasons set forth in the previous office actions filed 09/12/2007 and 05/14/2008.
7. Claims 1,3-5,11-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wokalek et al. (US 4,905,700), for the reasons set forth in the previous office actions filed 09/12/2007 and 05/14/2008.
8. Claims 1,3,7,11-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Young et al. (US 2003/0180347 A1), for the reasons set forth in the previous office actions filed 09/12/2007 and 05/14/2008.
9. Claims 1,3-5 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by PFIRRMANN et al. (WO 94/03174), for the reasons set forth in the previous office action filed 09/12/2007 and 05/14/2008.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 07/24/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants assert that none of the cited references relates to a thixotropic gel having the five specific attributes called for in claim 1 and detailed in pages 10-11 of their arguments, thus applicants surmise that none of the references teaches a composition similar to applicants claimed invention.

The examiner respectfully disagrees with the above assertion. The intended use type of limitations within steps (i)-(iii) of claim 1 are considered met by the prior art because the compositions are within applicants claimed scope thus they will inherently be able to perform the same intended use even if this feature is not disclosed within the references. Applicants have not amended their claims in such a way as to preclude the prior art references since applicants composition does not limit the ingredients or the amounts of those ingredients so that the prior art does not anticipate their claims. The subject matter of a properly construed claim is defined by the terms that limit its scope. It is this subject matter that must be examined. As a general matter, the grammar and intended meaning of terms used in a claim will dictate whether the language limits the claim scope. Language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation. The following are examples of language that may raise a question as to the limiting effect of the language in a claim:

- (A) statements of intended use or field of use,
- (B) "adapted to" or "adapted for" clauses,
- (C) "wherein" clauses, or

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(D) “whereby” clauses

As recited previously since the references above all teach a composition within applicants claimed scope it is inherent that the same composition will have the same properties. It appears as though applicants may be attempting to claim a new property of an old composition. Where the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a prima facie case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established. Thus the claiming of a new use, new function or unknown property which is inherently present in the prior art does not necessarily make the claim patentable. In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1254, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977).

Conclusion

No claims are allowed at this time.

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James W. Rogers, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-7838. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Hartley can be reached on (571) 271-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Michael G. Hartley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1618